

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

### 1. ON THE PRIMATES OF GUMTI SANCTUARY, TRIPURA

The Gumti Sanctuary in Tripura was notified in December 1988. It extends over 389.54 sq. km, of which approximately 70 sq. km has been inundated by a hydel dam. The sanctuary contains the following 6 species of primates — Hoolock Gibbon *Hylobates hoolock*, Phayre's Leaf Monkey *Presbytis phayrei*, Capped Langur *Presbytis pileatus*, Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatta*, Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca nemestrina* and Stump-tailed Macaque *Macaca arctoides*.

I do not know of any area of equal size in the world where 6 distinct species of primates occur in one contiguous forest.

In this regard, therefore, Gumti would be unique. It would be interesting to get feedback as to whether there are any such areas elsewhere, with such a diversity of primate species. I am given to understand that in a small island of about 20 hectares which has been formed due to the reservoir being created in Gumti as a result of the hydel project mentioned above, 3 species of primates now occur, namely the Hoolock Gibbon, the Leaf Monkey and the Stump-tailed Macaque. This must also be an unusual occurrence.

April 4, 1989.

RANJITSINH

### 2. CRAB-EATING MACAQUE *MACACA FASCICULARIS* (RAFFLES) FEEDING ON HOUSE SPARROW *PASSER DOMESTICUS* (LINNAEUS)

On 21 August 1988, at 1430 hours in the Zoo at Alipur in Calcutta, I saw a male Crab-eating Macaque *Macaca fascicularis* (Raffles) run, jump and catch a House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (Linnaeus) within its spacious enclosure. The monkey seized the bird with its left hand and with its right hand began plucking the feathers from the ventral side of the neck of the screaming bird. After

clearing the feathers, the monkey bit on the cleared portion of the neck and tore off the skin and muscle of that region. The monkey ate the bird except for the feathers, claws and the intestine.

March 28, 1989

AJAY KUMAR MANDAL

### 3. SMALL MONGOOSE *HARPESTES AUROPUNCTATUS* FEEDING ON DROPPINGS OF NILGAI *BOSELAPHUS TRAGOCAMELUS*

With reference to the note "The Small Mongoose feeding on droppings of Nilgai" by S.K. Sharma in *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 85 (3): 611, I would like to add the following comments. Similar observations have been made at Keoladeo Ghana National Park, Bharatpur. However, further observations show that the Mongoose actually feeds on the pods of *Acacia nilotica* (Babul) present in the droppings of Nilgai *Boselaphus tragocamelus*. Sharma reports that the observation was made during the mo-

nth of April, which is the peak fruiting period of *Acacia nilotica*. During this month Nilgai are frequently seen feeding on these pods. I am writing this note not to contradict his observation but to clarify that the mongooses actually feed on the *Acacia* pods present in the droppings of the Nilgai. It has been observed that they also feed on the pods present in the dung of cattle.

May 11, 1989.

MD. NAYERUL HAQUE